

BOOK REVIEWS

AUDREY EAGLE. 2006. **Eagle's Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand.** (ISBN 0-909010-08-0, hbk., slipcase). Te Papa Press, Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, PO Box 467, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND. (**Orders:** Museum of New Zealand, Cable St., PO Box 467, Wellington, New Zealand, www.tepapa.govt.nz). NZ \$200.00, Vol. 1, 544 pages; Vol. 2, 592 pages, richly illustrated, 9" × 11".

This beautiful two-volume set brings together Eagle's botanical artworks from her award winning and best selling 1975 and 1983 publications. The new edition includes over one hundred and seventy new paintings to depict every presently known native tree and shrub in New Zealand. The total number of plants illustrated, in color and life-size, is more than 800.

These long-awaited volumes are the result of decades of skilled draughtsmanship and loving, painstaking observation, as well as many years of field and laboratory research by New Zealand scientists. Audrey Eagle has been painting New Zealand's flora since 1954. She began painting the specimens she collected with the sole purpose of learning their botanical names. In 1968 she was contacted by William Collins Publishers to write and illustrate a book about native plants. With the aim of including examples of every genus of New Zealand tree and shrub, she began completing the required illustrations. After 27 years of work, her first book was published in 1975 with 228 species illustrated. Her second book followed in 1982 with a further 405 species illustrated. The current work has 173 additional species illustrated for a total of 806 species. With one exception every plant has been illustrated from live specimens. She is probably the only person in the world who has had the privilege of seeing live material of all the presently known New Zealand woody flora.

Painted from live specimens, every plant is depicted at life-size in technically superb detail, and many include detailed enlargements showing all aspects of the leaves, flowers and fruit. As many of the native plants have small flowers, these and other details helpful to the recognition of a species are shown enlarged. In the case of leaves that are too large to fit on the page, reductions of the complete plants are shown. Each painting is accompanied with comprehensive notes on a facing page. Written in consultation with expert botanists, these provide accurate and up-to-date descriptions of each plant, including notes on its habitat, distribution, nomenclature and more. Her 1983 work included short biographies of many botanists and others after whom plants have been named. In curtailed form, this information is included with the botanical information for each species.

The botanical names of plants follow the Plant Names Database of Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand. If a plant is commonly recognized by another name in the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network database it is noted in the text. As many formally recognized plant species names have changed since her earlier works, the currently recognized name of each plant is indicated in the botanical description and reference is made to the relevant publication. Common and Māori names have been included whenever possible. The editorial style follows the *New Zealand Journal of Botany*.

Passionately involved in New Zealand's botanical community, Eagle was a founding member of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. She has also served on the Nature Conservation Council. Her illustrations have been cited in numerous published studies of New Zealand's flora. In 2001, Audrey Eagle was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to botanical art. Her latest work was short-listed for the New Zealand Booksellers Choice Award for 2007. The award is given to the book that New Zealand booksellers most enjoyed reading, selling and promoting in the previous year. This set is the accumulation of Audrey Eagle's life's work. It is an outstanding contribution to botany in New Zealand and an essential addition to any botanical library concerned with the flora of the Pacific Rim.—Gary Jennings, Library, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

DAVID YETMAN. 2006. **The Organ Pipe Cactus.** (ISBN 0-8165-2541-2, pbk.). The University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Avenue, Suite 103, Tucson, AZ 85719, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.uapress.arizona.edu, orders@uapress.arizona.edu). \$ 9.95, 80 pp., 36 color photos, 1 drawing, 1 map, 8" × 10".

When you first see one, it is obvious how the organ pipe cactus got its name. Its slender vertical branches, reaching for the heavens and perhaps 30 feet tall, bring to mind the tubes of a pipe organ. Whether standing alone or growing in a grove, these spectacular and intriguing plants are found exclusively in the United States in a small area of the Sonoran Desert in the southwestern corner of Arizona.

David Yetman provides an in-depth and comprehensive look at these intriguing and picturesque plants that most Americans will never have the opportunity to see in person. Seven chapters explore where they grow; the special conditions required for their germination, growth, and survival; their position in a genus with more than twenty species; discovery by western Europeans; early history in the Mayan civilization; uses as a commercial crop; and the future of the organ pipe cactus. Although it is the most common columnar cactus worldwide, it is so unusual in the United States that it is only one of two cacti (the saguaro) and the Joshua tree, to have a national preserve established to protect it.

This is a beautifully illustrated book, well written and is a handsome addition to his other two works. He is the co-editor of *Gentry's Río Mayo Plants: The Tropical Deciduous Forest and Environs of Northwest Mexico*, also published by the University of Arizona Press, and the author of *Mayo Ethnobotany: Land, History, and Traditional Knowledge in Northwest Mexico*.—Gary Jennings, Library, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.